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Identical letters dated 3 February 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

For the third time in the past week, I write to express Israel's very serious concern about the rockets flying out of the Gaza Strip daily.

On the evening of 1 February 2012 — in the midst of the Secretary-General's visit to our region — terrorists in Gaza fired seven rockets into Israeli communities within the span of an hour. These rockets exploded in close proximity to the city of Sderot — and forced thousands of Israelis to spend the evening in bomb shelters. In the last three weeks alone, more than 20 rockets and mortars have been fired into Israeli cities and communities.

With his own eyes, the Secretary-General has seen the threats facing 1 million Israelis this week. He met children from Sha'ar HaNegev whose school bus was struck by a Hamas anti-tank missile, killing their 16-year-old classmate. The Secretary-General travelled to Sapir College, where students have just 15 seconds of warning to take cover in bomb shelters in the face of falling rockets, month after month. The Secretary-General made clear during these visits that nothing can justify the firing of rockets towards Israel and that these deliberate attempts to harm civilians must be condemned.

With each rocket that falls, the explosive potential for conflict rises. The Security Council must finally address the dangers posed by these continued attacks with the utmost seriousness.

Israel expects the Security Council, and all responsible members of the international community, to condemn the rocket fire from Gaza without any further delay. We also expect President Abbas, and other leaders of the Palestinian Authority, to finally raise their voices and fulfil their fundamental obligations to clearly denounce these acts of terrorism.

Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization fully responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza, where it remains in de facto control. Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haim **Waxman**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires ad interim

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